

CLAIMS

1. A payback system for making payback to  
a product user or a middleman when a service is  
5 received by using a product distributed by a product  
manufacturer or the middleman, characterized by:  
storage means for storing use results of  
the service received by the product user by using  
the product; and  
10 calculation means for calculating a  
payback value or payback values to one or both of  
the product user and the middleman based on said  
storage means.
2. The payback system as claimed in claim  
15 1, characterized in that:  
the product is an information-processing  
product; and  
the service is provided by means of the  
20 information-processing product.
3. A payback method for making payback to  
a product user or a middleman when a service is  
received by using a product distributed by a product  
25 manufacturer or the middleman, characterized by the  
steps of:  
storing use results of the service  
received by the product user by using the product;  
and  
30 calculating a payback value or payback  
values to one or both of the product user and the  
middleman based on the stored use results.
4. A payback system in which a customer  
35 receives a product directly or via a middleman from  
a product provider or a product and service provider,  
and receives a service from a service provider or

the product and service provider by using the product, characterized by:

storage means for storing use results of the service received by the customer by using the product; and

determination means for determining a payback value or payback values of the product to one or both of the customer and the middleman.

5. The payback system as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that:

the product is an information-processing product; and

the service is provided by means of the information-processing product.

6. A network service payback system for making payback to a distributor of an information-processing product having a network connection function, the information-processing product being distributed to a customer so that a network service is provided for payment to the customer by means of the information-processing product, the network service payback system characterized by:

distribution channel storage means for storing the distributor of the information-processing product, the distributor being correlated with information-processing product identification information for identifying the information-processing product;

information-processing product information storage means for storing customer identification information for identifying the customer and the information-processing product identification information registered with a network service provider by the customer, the customer identification information being correlated with the

information-processing product identification  
information; and

payback calculation means for calculating  
a payback value to be paid to the distributor by the  
5 network service provider based on the customer  
identification information stored in the  
information-processing product information storage  
means so as to be correlated with the information-  
processing product identification information stored  
10 in the distribution channel storage means and on use  
result information of the network service, the use  
result information being separately collected and  
correlated with the customer identification  
information.

15  
7. The network service payback system as  
claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the use  
result information is a charge for use of the  
network service by the customer.

20  
8. The network service payback system as  
claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the use  
result information is a period of registration of  
the customer with the network service.

25  
9. A computer-readable recording medium  
recorded with a payback operation program for making  
payback to a distributor of an information-  
processing product having a network connection  
30 function, the information-processing product being  
distributed to a customer so that a network service  
is provided for payment to the customer by means of  
the information-processing product, the payback  
operation program causing a computer to function as:

35 distribution channel storage means for  
storing the distributor of the information-  
processing product, the distributor being correlated



5

the service is provided by means of the information-processing product.

10

15

20

25

the service is provided by means of the information-processing product.

30

35

5           an information-processing product  
information storage device storing customer  
identification information for identifying the  
customer and the information-processing product  
identification information registered with a network  
10 service provider by the customer, the customer  
identification information being correlated with the  
information-processing product identification  
information; and

15. The network service payback system as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the use result information is a charge for use of the network service by the customer.

16. The network service payback system as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the use result information is a period of registration of the customer with the network service.